

Message Text

SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9540

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TAGS: PFOR, MILI, IR, IS

SUBJ: IRANIAN DEFENSE CONTACTS WITH ISRAEL

REF: TEHRAN 9881

URI LUBRANI, UNOFFICIAL ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN TEHRAN, CONFIRMED OCTOBER 13 ESSENTIAL VOINTS CONTAINED REFTEL. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE IS ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE FOR THE LEADING TRIUMVERATE IN THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT INDIVIDUALLY TO VISIT THE SHAH AT PERIODIC INTERVALS TO KEEP HIM INFORMED OF THE THINKING AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ISRAELI LEADERSHIP. AS FOR MILITARY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, LUBRANI IS DOING HIS BEST TO EXPAND THEM (AT PRESENT IRAN BUYF SOME AMMUNITION FROM ISRAEL) AND TO PERSUADE THE IRANIANS THAT ISRAEL MAKES BETTER BIG GUNS THAN KRUPP AND THAT THE MILITARY HARDWARE IT MANUFACTURES CAN COMVETE WCTH THE BEST IN THE MARKET EXCEPT FOR SOPHISTICATED MISSILES AND ELECTRONIC GEAR. DEVELOPINGNTHIS RELATIONSHIP IS ALL PART OF LUBRANI'S EFFORT TO TIE THE IRANIAN AND ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS TOGETHER THROULH A VARIETY OF ZILATERAL DEALINGS. INCIDENTALLY, HE IS CONVINCED THAT ISRAEL COULD SELL MORE MILITARY HARDWARE TO IRAN IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE GOI PENCHANT FOR WANTING THE MOST SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS FROM FAMOUS MANUFACTURERS.

HELMS

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